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FM THE WHITE HOUSE TOHAK 44

PARIS

UNCLASSIFIED WH29810

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TOHAK 44

FM THE SITUATION ROOM

TO WINSTON LORD FOR DR. KISSINGER

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

HELMS SHIFT NOT DUE TO RIFT, KISSINGER SAYS

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER HENRY A. KISSINGER DENIED TODAY A REPORT IN YESTERDAY'S STAR-NEWS THAT A SERIOUS POLICY DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN HIM AND CIA DIRECTOR RICHARD M. HELMS IS A FACTOR BEHIND HELMS' IMPENDING RESIGNATION AS INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR.

A WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL SAID KISSINGER INDICATED IN ONE OF HIS CALLS FROM PARIS TODAY THAT IT WAS "DIRECTLY CONTRARY TO THE TRUTH" TO SUGGEST THAT HE WAS IN ANY WAY INSTRUMENTAL IN PRESIDENT NIXON'S AS YET UNANNOUNCED DECISION TO REASSIGN HELMS.

KISSINGER WAS LIKEWISE REPORTED TO BE APPALLED AT ANY INFERENCE THAT HELMS SHOULD BE STEPPING DOWN AS U.S. INTELLIGENCE CHIEF BECAUSE OF A DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN HIM AND HELMS.

KISSINGER'S DENIAL DID NOT RELATE TO ANY SPECIFIC POINTS IN THE STAR-NEWS ACCOUNT, WHICH REPORTED THAT A CONFLICT AROSE OVER HELMS' POSITION IN 1969 OVER WHETHER THE SOVIET UNION, WITH ITS MASSIVE SS-9 MISSILE, WAS GOING FOR A "FIRST-STRIKE" CAPABILITY.

NEITHER DID KISSINGER'S DEMURRAL CONTAIN A SPECIFIC DENIAL THAT A POLICY DISAGREEMENT, IN FACT, EXISTED.

A WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL EXPLAINED THAT KISSINGER AND TOP ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED THAT HELMS' REASSIGNMENT AWAY FROM THE CIA TO ANOTHER POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY NOT BE GIVEN A NEGATIVE INTERPRETATION.

HELMS' INTENTION TO RESIGN AS DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE WAS REPORTED LATE LAST WEEK BY HIGH ADMINISTRATION SOURCES, WHO HAVE INDICATED THAT AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT IS BEING HELD UP SO HELMS CAN DECIDE WHETHER TO ACCEPT THE OTHER JOB BEING OFFERED HIM. THERE HAVE BEEN NO INDICATIONS WHAT THE NEW ASSIGNMENT IS TO BE.

EFFORTS TO REACH HELMS HAVE BEEN UNAVAILING.

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FM THE WHITE HOUSE TOHAK 46

PARIS

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DELIVER OOB

TOHAK 46

FM: THE SITUATION ROOM

TO: LORD FOR DR. KISSINGER

SENATOR PERCY REPORTEDLY TOLD SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORMIN LAM THAT UNLESS
SAIGON SIGNS A PEACE TREATY ITS US AID COULD BE IN JEOPARDY.

122 PERCY-VIET

CHICAGO (AP)-SEN. CHARLES H. PERCY TOLD SOUTH VIETNAM'S FOREIGN
MINISTER THAT IF THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO SIGN A PEACE
TREATY ITS U.S. AID COULD BE PLACED IN JEOPARDY, THE CHICAGO DAILY
NEWS REPORTED TODAY.

PERCY, A REPUBLICAN MEMBER OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE, HAD A 45-MINUTE PRIVATE MEETING IN SAIGON TODAY WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER TRAN VAN LAM.

THE ILLINOIS SENATOR SAID HE WAS NOT ACTING IN BEHALF OF PRESIDENT
NIXON IN COMMUNICATING WITH THE SOUTH VIETNAM OFFICIAL.

PERCY REPORTED THAT HE TOLD LAM THAT ANY REFUSAL BY SOUTH
VIETNAM TO SIGN A PEACE TREATY WITH THE NORTH WOULD "PREJUDICE U.S.
AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM GREATLY."

"THERE WOULD BE A DIRECT EFFECT ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AND
THE RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM WOULD BE JEOPARDIZED IN THE SOUTH,"

PERCY RELATED. PD:9745-TAXES

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